

## Andrew Jackson to John Caldwell Calhoun, June 28, 1822, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO SECRETARY CALHOUN.

Private

June 28, 1822.

*D'r Sir,* Being absent vissitting my little farm near Florence, when your letter of the 16th of May reached Nashville, I did not receive it untill the 22d instant the day of my return, and will account to you for the delay of my acknowledging its receipt.

It will at all times afford me Sincere pleasure to interchange with you my sentiments on any, and all Subjects that may be interesting to you, or in which the interest of our common country may be involved. There is no ones, welfare and prosperity, I have more at heart than yours, This was the reason, I have wrote you with the Frankness I have done, and hastened as soon as advised to lay before you, the conduct of Genl Jessup<sup>1</sup> at Pensacola. I believed you, like myself, to have held in estimation the Genl free from duplicity or, dishonourable conduct. from information recd some time since I was fully convinced of my Error and I am happy you are now guarded with respect to him—he is unworthy of confidence, and capable in my opinion of betraying it. As to our mutual friend Gadsden, you may rely on it, there is neither deception or duplicity in his composition, the longer you are acquainted with him, the more you will be convinced, that I have formed a Just Estimate of him.

1 Thomas S. Jesup, quartermaster general.

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It is certainly true, that the Military committee of the Senate have and will be wielded by the present Secretary of the Treasury; Mr. Monroe must have long since known of his intrigue, and I do assure you his best friend has viewed with regret and astonishment, that he still retains him in his Cabinet. Mr. Crawford if I mistake not, has not abandoned his intrigue and it is probable, the Military committee may at the next session of Congress renew their attack against Mr. Monroe, Their object to effect you, and draw the attention of the nation from his corruption, and intrigue. his friends well know they can neither justify or defend him, and it is plain that this is their course from the game that is played by the red jackets through the city Gazzett.<sup>2</sup>

### 2 The Washington *Gazette*.

The right mode is to meet an enemy with his own weapons, and if Mr. Cook could meet with that support that virtue ought to elicit and at the next session call up the report of the committee on the subject of the employment of Senator Thomas, unfold Mr. Crawfords conduct fully, and his false statement to the Chairman of that committee, on which the chairman founded his eroneous report—it will put the Sen. and his friend down forever. Mr. Crawford will not in my opinion get a vote in this state. I have said that I am induced to believe, that Crawford, through the military committee of the Senate, will at the next session of Congress, make another effort against the Executive, to injure you, Colo. Benton<sup>3</sup> will wield Williams and Crawford will wield them both like a shewman does his puppets. I know they men well, and from a front view can well judge of their interior. Benton has laid a resolution on the table calling for information whether Colo. Butler has resigned etc. etc.<sup>4</sup> This is not acted on, but is left for further operations, at the next session. If these men expect any thing from Colo. Butler to aid their views they are widely mistaken—he is too honourable a man to have any thing to do with such men.

### 3 Now senator from Missouri, 1821–1851.

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4 Resolution of Mar. 8, 1822. *Annals of Congress*, 17 Cong., 1 sess., I. 474 (executive proceedings). The reference is to Col. Robert Butler, who had resigned Nov. 16, 1821.

I must be frank, it behoves you and Mr. Monroe to act with great caution, and give to those men no opportunity of advantage by any act that you may do, that relates to the army. you have no adjutant Genl, this will create for you great labour. Should you detail one to perform the duties, and allow him compensation they will endeavour to assail you for having applied the public money, not appropriated by law, alledging that the fault was with the President in leaving the office unfilled, and if Colo Gadsden should be detailed it will be handled by them as a contemptuous conduct of the President to the Senate, that body having rejected his renomination. Permit me to remark Colo. Gadsden is too valuable to the army and his country for his services to be lost, Permit me to sugest a course, that will disappoint your enemies, silence them and bring Colo. Gadsden into the adjutant generals office, his feelings untouched, and the President free from blame. let it be remembered, that the military committee contend, that the adjt Genl office of right ought to have been filled by Jones or Butler. Butler has tendered his resignation, which as yet has not been accepted, he is under permission by Genl Gains to remain in Tennessee or untill he receives information whether his resignation is accepted of or not—in point of law he is still in the army and the P. in pursuing the intimation of the military committe by reappointing Towson paymaster has shewn an inclination to adopt the course pointed out by them. Let Butler then be ordered to the city as adjt Genl, he will obey the order, and continue to perform the duties to the next meeting of Congress with an understanding that he is permitted then to resign, and that Colo. Gadsden be nominated by the President to the Senate to fill the office of adjutant Genl. This will silence the opposition of the military committee and insure Gadsden an unanimous confirmation by the Senate. I well know that Colo. Butler will make this sacrafice of absence from his family, to secure his friend Gadsden the appointment and his country his services and to relieve the administration from the present embarrassment believing as he does that Mr. Monroe will provide for him by giving him the appointment of Survayor Genl of the Floridas

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when that appointment is made. Major Eaton reached me last night, The sugestions I have made to him which he approves. Colo. Butlers account goes on by this days mail addressed to Maj. Vandeventer.<sup>5</sup> Should these sugestions be approved and adopted his account can be suspended. I pledge myself, for Colo. Butlers compliance with the arrangement above sugested.

<sup>5</sup> Christopher Van Deventer, chief clerk of the War Department.

Present me to Mr. Monroe and say to him I have recd his letter with the inclosure which shall be answered so soon as I have time to peruse with attention the inclosure

in haste I am sir with great respect yr mo ob servt